

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 624

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Deontra Jackson for her service to the people of Collierville.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those compassionate individuals who devote themselves to charitable works, thereby advancing the public good; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Deontra Jackson, a young resident of Collierville whose Kindness Tour has not only delighted those it has served but also inspired others to treat their fellow neighbors with care, generosity, and respect; and

WHEREAS, Deontra Jackson's Kindness Tour began in May 2020 at the end of a hot day; noticing the Town of Collierville sanitation workers, she told her mother, Demeatrice, that she would like to give them cold drinks and snacks; and

WHEREAS, her mother called the Town of Collierville Sanitation Department and learned that there were forty employees, so Deontra asked her grandfather to take her shopping to pick up treats for the workers, who were grateful and later sent a thank you card; and

WHEREAS, following the success of her first act of kindness, Deontra, with the help of family members, made snack bags and visited the new Collierville Chief of Police, Dale Lane, and his team, prompted by unsettling scenes on the news that gave her "the desire to do something good to get to know the police better and not be afraid"; and

WHEREAS, ten-year-old Deontra Jackson continues to put her compassion into action, with no plans of stopping her Kindness Tour anytime soon; stops on the tour so far have included the Collierville Baptist ER, Collierville Fire Department, Collierville Town Hall, a local Walgreens, an Amazon delivery depot near Memphis, and St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen in Downtown Memphis; and

WHEREAS, many have taken notice of her community initiatives, including local news outlets and others in the community who have donated to the cause; on April 27, 2021, "Celebrity Soup Chef" Jenny Levison, owner of Souper Jenny in Atlanta, Georgia, traveled in her Souper Jenny Kindness Tour bus to Collierville to visit Deontra; together, they distributed freshly prepared quarts of soup and snacks at Suggs Park to those living nearby and at the bus stops near the VFW, thereafter visiting Collierville Baptist Hospital to distribute the same to the medical workers; and

WHEREAS, Deontra Jackson is one of Tennessee's finest young community servants and leaders, and it is most fitting that she be both emulated and honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend Deontra Jackson for her selfless, compassionate service to her Collierville neighbors, extending our best wishes for her continued success and happiness along her Kindness Tour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.